

Application No.: 10/764,589**Docket No.: 2038-323****AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A pants-type disposable wearing article comprising:
a liquid-impervious base sheet defining front and rear waist regions opposed to each other and a crotch region extending between said front and rear waist regions;
a liquid-absorbent panel extending over said crotch region and further into said front and rear waist regions;
said base sheet having, in said front and rear waist regions, a waist-surrounding end zone extending in a transverse direction, a pair of waist lateral zones extending in a longitudinal direction and, in said crotch region, a pair of crotch lateral zones extending in a leg-surrounding direction,
said base sheet being provided with a waist-surrounding first elastic member extending in the transverse direction along said waist-surrounding end zone so as to be contractible in said transverse direction, a plurality of waist-surrounding second elastic members lying below said first elastic members so as to be contractible in said transverse direction and a plurality of leg-surrounding elastic members extending along said crotch lateral zones in a leg-surrounding direction so as to be contractible in said leg-surrounding direction, said second elastic members being spaced apart one from another by a predetermined dimension from at least one of said front and rear waist regions toward said crotch region in said longitudinal direction, and said waist lateral zones being connected together to form a waist-hole and a pair of leg-holes,
said second elastic members having fixed portions secured to said waist lateral zones and said crotch lateral zones in vicinities of respective side edges of these lateral zones and free portions extending between said fixed portions across said panel in said transverse direction and secured

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neither to said base sheet nor to said panel; and

said free portions of said second elastic members and said leg-surrounding elastic members three-dimensionally intersecting one another in said crotch lateral zones and ranges of said waist lateral zones placed aside toward said crotch region, at least said crotch lateral zones and not secured together at crossover points of these elastic members.

2. (original) The wearing article according to Claim 1, wherein said fixed portions of said second elastic members extending in said crotch region are placed aside toward said side edges of said crotch lateral zones compared to said leg-surrounding elastic members.

3. (original) The wearing article according to Claim 1, wherein said second elastic members extending in said waist-region's lateral zones contract to a transverse dimension which is substantially the same as or slightly larger than a transverse dimension of said panel as measured between transversely opposite side edges.

4. (original) The wearing article according to Claim 1, wherein:
said base sheet comprises a first sheet lying on the side of said panel and a second sheet lying outside said first sheet; and
said first and second elastic members as well as said leg-surrounding elastic members are interposed between said first sheet and said second sheet.

5. (original) The wearing article according to Claim 4, wherein:
said base sheet has a third sheet interposed between said first sheet and said second sheet;
said second elastic members are interposed between said first and third sheets or between said second and third sheets;
said leg-surrounding elastic members are interposed between the pair of sheets other than the pair of sheets sandwiching said second elastic members; and

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said second elastic members and said leg-surrounding elastic members are spaced apart one from another with said third sheet lying therebetween.

6. (original) The wearing article according to Claim 4, wherein a plurality of welded spots at which the sheets sandwiching said second elastic members are formed in vicinities of the side edges of said panel so that said welded spots lie between each pair of adjacent free portions of said second elastic members and are spaced apart one from another by a predetermined dimension in said longitudinal direction.

7. (original) The wearing article according to Claim 1, wherein said panel comprises a liquid-pervious upper layer sheet facing a wearer's skin, a liquid-impervious lower layer sheet facing away from the wearer's skin and a liquid-absorbent core interposed between said upper and lower layer sheets, at least said upper layer sheet and said core.

8. (new) A pants-type disposable wearing article, comprising:
a liquid-impervious base sheet defining a front waist region, a rear waist region, and a crotch region extending between the front waist region and the rear waist region in a longitudinal direction of said article, said front and rear waist regions being attached to each other along transversely opposite side edges thereof so as to form a waist-hole and a pair of leg-holes;
a liquid-absorbent panel attached to an inner side of said base sheet;
a first elastic member extending along a peripheral edge of said waist-hole;
a plurality of second elastic members extending across said liquid-absorbent panel in at least one of said front and rear waist regions between the transversely opposite side edges of said front and rear waist regions; and
a plurality of third elastic members extending along peripheral edges of said leg-holes;
wherein each of said second elastic members has
opposite end portions located outward beyond transversely opposite side edges of said

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liquid-absorbent panel and being secured to said base sheet, and

a middle portion connecting said opposite end portions, extending between the transversely opposite side edges of said liquid-absorbent panel, and being free of direct attachment to both said base sheet and said liquid-absorbent panel; and

wherein the middle portions of said second elastic members cross over said first elastic members and are not secured to said third elastic members at crossover points of said second and third elastic members.

9. (new) The article of claim 8, wherein said article has a relaxed state in which the middle portions of said second elastic members are allowed to contract to a transverse dimension which is substantially the same as or slightly larger than a transverse dimension of said panel as measured between the transversely opposite side edges thereof.

10. (new) The article of claim 8, wherein each of said second elastic members is entirely free of direct attachment to said base sheet except at the opposite end portions.

11. (new) The article of claim 10, wherein
said base sheet comprises first and second sheets, said first sheet is disposed between said liquid-absorbent panel and said second sheet, and said second and third elastic members are disposed between said first and second sheets;

said base sheet further comprises a third sheet disposed between said first sheet and said second sheet; and

said second elastic members and said third elastic members are spaced apart one from another by said third sheet lying between said second and third elastic members.

12. (new) The article of claim 11, wherein
said second elastic members are disposed between said second sheet and said third sheet;

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said base sheet further comprising bonding spots joining said third and second sheets in regions located between the middle portions of adjacent said second elastic members, said bonding spots limiting displacement of the middle portions of said second elastic members in the longitudinal direction of said article without affecting contraction of said middle portions in a transverse direction of said article.

13. (new) The article of claim 8, wherein said base sheet comprises first and second sheets, said first sheet is disposed between said liquid-absorbent panel and said second sheet, and said second elastic members are disposed between said first and second sheets;

said base sheet further comprising bonding spots joining said first and second sheets in regions located between the middle portions of adjacent said second elastic members, said bonding spots limiting displacement of the middle portions of said second elastic members in the longitudinal direction of said article without affecting contraction of said middle portions in a transverse direction of said article.

14. (new) The article of claim 13, wherein some of said bonding spots are arranged along said transversely opposite side zones of said panel and between said panel and the end portions of said second elastic members.

15. (new) The article of claim 13, wherein said base sheet, in a region corresponding to said panel, is free of said bonding spots.

16. (new) The article of claim 13, wherein said bonding spots are presented between every pair of adjacent said second elastic members so as to prevent said adjacent second elastic members from forming a bundle with each other.

17. (new) The article of claim 10, wherein said base sheet comprises first and second

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sheets, said first sheet is disposed between said liquid-absorbent panel and said second sheet, and said second elastic members are disposed between said first and second sheets;

said article further comprising at least one third sheet carrying printed indicia in a region corresponding to the middle portions of said second elastic members;

said third sheet being disposed between said second elastic member and said second sheet, and secured to said second sheet.

18. (new) The article of claim 8, wherein said base sheet comprises first and second sheets, and said second and third elastic members are disposed between said first and second sheets; said base sheet further comprising a plurality of adhesive zones bonding said first and second sheets and end portions of said third elastic members together;

each of said adhesive zones being disposed between the middle portions of one pair of adjacent said second elastic members, and between said panel and one of the end portions of each of said second elastic members in said pair.

19. (new) The article of claim 18, wherein each of said adhesive zones is spaced in the longitudinal direction of said article from the middle portions of the adjacent second elastic members between which said adhesive zone is disposed.

20. (new) The article of claim 19, wherein each of said adhesive zones is elongated in a transverse direction of said article, and spaced in said transverse direction from the end portions of the adjacent second elastic members between which said adhesive zone is disposed.